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HOOVER MEMOS TOLD NIXON AIDES OF KOREA

But Mitchell Denies Ever Seeing 2
About Payment to Congressman
and Contribution to Democrats

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 21—The late J. Edgar Hoover personally sent warnings to John N. Mitchell and Henry A. Kissinger that South Korean agents were on Congressional staffs, had paid off representatives and had contributed large sums to the Democratic Party.

A House subcommittee today released summaries of the three memorandums that the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation sent in late 1971 and early 1972 to Mr. Mitchell, then the Attorney General, and to Mr. Kissinger, President Nixon's national security adviser.

Mr. Mitchell, in his first appearance on Capitol Hill since his conviction in the Watergate affair, testified under oath before the subcommittee that he had received the first memorandum. But he denied that he had ever seen the other two, one of which reported that several hundred thousand dollars had been contributed to the Democratic Party on instructions from the President of South Korea, Park Chung Hee.

The documents released by the subcommittee were among the strongest pieces of evidence so far made public on the covert Korean effort to obtain influence in Congress. Among them were F.B.I. reports alleging that there had been criminal activity warranting a full investigation.

A spokesman for the House Subcommittee on International Organizations, which is investigating alleged efforts by South Korea to influence American policy, said that Mr. Kissinger had agreed to testify later. He has denied knowing about alleged illegalities until 1975.

Knowledge by Agencies

The subcommittee, headed by Representative Donald M. Fraser, Democrat of Minnesota, released other documents and heard testimony strongly suggesting that American intelligence agencies and the F.B.I. knew much about the covert Korean lobby but undertook only what Mr. Fraser called a "perfunctory" investigation.

"This is a very disturbing record we've developed," Mr. Fraser said after this morning's hearing. "It defies explanation."

Mr. Mitchell testified for less than an hour. He came in walking slowly and limping slightly, evidently from his recent hip operation.

Mr. Fraser made no mention of Mr. Mitchell's conviction or of his furlough from the minimum security prison in Alabama, where the former Attorney General is serving a term of one to four years for conspiracy, obstructing justice and perjury in connection with the Watergate cover-up. The Congressman welcomed Mr. Mitchell with a word about his recent illness and promised to keep the session short. "That'll be appreciated, Mr. Chairman," Mr. Mitchell replied dryly.

Concise Answers

Mr. Mitchell, as in the Watergate hearings, gave concise answers and volunteered little. His hand trembled slightly as he leafed through the papers before him.

Those included summaries of the "Top Secret, Eyes Only" memorandums to him from Mr. Hoover. The first, dated Sept. 30, 1971, reported that two Congressional staff aides were connected with the Korean Central Intelligence Agency. Committee sources later identified them as Sue Park Thomson, the Korean-born woman on the staff of Carl Albert, then Speaker of the House, and Kim Kwang, who was on the staff of Cornelius Gallagher, then a Democratic Representative from New Jersey.

Mr. Mitchell said he had discussed the memo with Mr. Albert. The Speaker said, according to Mr. Mitchell, that Mrs. Thomson was "a nice young lady with a fine American education" and that since she did not have a sensitive job, he saw no problem in retaining her.

The former Attorney General said that he did not speak to Representative Gallagher because he was already under investigation on a tax matter. Mrs. Thomson has denied any connection with the K.C.I.A.; Mr. Kim has reportedly returned to Korea.

Report on Payments

The second memorandum, dated Nov. 24, 1971, reported that Tongsun Park had made payments to Representative Richard T. Hanna, who pleaded guilty to a charge of conspiracy last Friday. Tongsun Park is facing charges in connection with the influence-buying scandal and is testifying before Congressional committees on a grant of immunity. The memo said that while Mr. Park was not a K.C.I.A. employee, he was acting under agency direction. South Korean spokesmen have denied this.

The summary added, "The Blue House, South Korea's Presidential mansion, was directly involved in directing the contribution of several hundred thousand dollars to the Democratic Party."

Mr. Mitchell said that he could not recall ever having seen that memo. Asked whether he had an explanation for not having seen a "Top Secret" memo personally addressed to him, Mr. Mitchell replied: "I have none whatsoever. I wish I had."

The third memo from Mr. Hoover, which like the first two was duplicated in the letters to Mr. Kissinger, reported that Mr. Hanna had sought campaign contributions from President Park and had told the president that Tongsun Park should be placed in charge of Korean lobbying in the United States.

Mr. Mitchell said he had also not seen that memo, although it had his initials on it. He said the initials were not in his handwriting. Pressed to explain, Mr. Mitchell said that his experience in Washington had shown him that "the files down here are filled with memoranda that were never sent."

The subcommittee also released copies of F.B.I. reports noting that "while criminal activities are strongly indicated warranting Bureau investigation, we are stopped from conducting such investigations" because of restrictions imposed by the unnamed intelligence agency that originated the reports.